Wildlife given as diplomatic gifts

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that too many endangered species of wildlife are being given away as diplomatic gifts;

(b) if so, the details of protected wildlife given as diplomatic gifts, to other countries during the last three years, giving the names of countries;

(c) the details of such gifts received by the country during the same period; and

(d) what are the reasons behind such a policy/practice?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) India has, from time to time, been giving diplomatic gifts of wild animals to foreign countries as goodwill gesture. International Union for Conservation of Nature also recognises the inevitability of such gifts and have issued detailed guidelines on the subject. The details of wild animals given and received as diplomatic gift by Government of India during last 3 years are as below:—

Sl. No.	Year of approval	Name of the Dignitary who presented Diplomatic Gift	Name of the Donor Zoo	Animal Given (Male-Female)	Receipient Zoo & Country
1.	1998-1999 India	President of Bhubaneshwar,	Nandankanan Zoo, Orissa.	Elephant (0:1) turkey	Izmir Zoo
2.	1999-2000	Defence Minister Govt. of India	Assam State Zoo, Guwahati	Elephant (0:1)	Ueno Zoo, Japan
		Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India	National Zoological Park	Peafowls (2:2)	National Zoo, Dhaka
3.	2000-2001	Ministry of External Affairs Govt. of India	M.C. Zoological Park, Chhatbir, Punjab.	Bengal Tiger (1:1)	Tripoli Zoo, Libya

Sl. No.	Year of receipt	Name of the Foreign Zoo/ Foreign Dignitary	Animals Given	Name of the Recipient Indian Zoo
1.	1998-99	President of Zimbabwe	African Elephant (1:1)	Delhi Zoo